

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

**O'BRIEN**

Atty Ref. **540-322**

Serial No. **10/052,108**

Group:

Filed: **January 17, 2002**

Examiner:

For: **HARDENED AUTOMATIC  
SYNCHRONISATION SCHEME FOR  
ATM CELLS**

\* \* \* \* \*

May 21, 2002

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, DC 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel without prejudice claims 10 and 11 and amend claims 3, 8 and 9 as follows. Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

*a1* 3. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the error correction corresponds to Reed Solomon forward error correction.

*a2* 8. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the synchronisation data is interleaved throughout the ATM cell in such a way as to render the ATM cell substantially insensitive to interference targeted at cell boundaries.

## SECURITY RECEIPT

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To: Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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From: NIXON & VANDERHYE  
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By: Kristen M. McGee  
Kristen M. McGee

Date: May 21, 2002

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### Description of Attachments or Enclosures

3-page Preliminary Amendment (1 copy)

6 sheets formal drawings (1 copy)

1 GB priority document

Serial No.: 10/052,108

Atty. Docket No.: 540-322

(Corresponding to GB 0101700.3 filed January 23, 2001)

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The above-identified matter was personally received by me on the 21 day of  
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